

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application; and in the Office Action, the Examiner issued a final rejection of these claims over the prior art and under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. With respect to the rejection of the claims over the prior art, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,834,297 (Peiffer, et al.); and Claims 3, 7, 8, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Peiffer, et al in view of a document "Web Workshop JavaScript" (Lemay, et al.). Claims 5, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Peiffer, et al in view of U.S. Patent 6,163,780 (Ross).

Applicants herein ask that independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 be amended to better define the subject matters of these claims.

For the reasons discussed below, Claims 1-17 patentably distinguish over the prior art and also fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. The Examiner is, hence, respectfully asked to enter this Amendment, to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102, 103 and 112, and to allow these claims.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, the Examiner argued that these claims were indefinite because there was insufficient antecedent basis in the independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 for the limitation "the page layout format."

To address this objection, Claims 1, 6 and 11 are herein being amended to indicate that the requested web content file has "a given page layout format." This provides the appropriate antecedent basis for the term "the page layout format," occurring later in the claims.

In view of the above comments, the Examiner is asked to enter this amendment to Claims 1, 6 and 11, and to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

With respect to the rejections of the claims over the prior art, Claims 1-17 patentably distinguish over the prior art because that prior art does not disclose or suggest reducing the size of a web content file having information stored in a scripted language format, in response to a request for that web content file from a web browser, and downloading such a reduced size file to the web browser.

In order to best understand this, it may be helpful to summarize this invention and the prior art.

As explained in detail in the present application, this invention relates to methods and systems for downloading files over computer networks, and more specifically, downloading files having information stored in a scripted language format. In the operation of the invention, a web browser requests a file, and then pre-identified subject matter is removed from the file. The reduced size file is then downloaded to the browser. One important feature of the invention is that the file size is reduced without changing the page layout format of the file. Another important feature of the invention is that the information, which is reduced, is stored in the file in a scripted language format.

Peiffer's patent deals with the stripping of non-renderable data, (such as comments, whitespace, hard returns, meta tags, and keywords, and other data not used by a browser to display a web page). Peiffer also discusses a mechanism for compressing image files in order to reduce the time required to download the image.

Peiffer's patent is focused on tagged languages, such as HTML. As a result, Peiffer does not include a method for compressing logic blocks that result from scripting languages like Javascript.

The present invention is different in that this invention reduces the size of the download by compressing items, such as logic blocks, implemented in a SCRIPTING language like Javascript. Although both identify the removal of comments, whitespaces, and hard returns, the procedure of this invention is advantageous because scripting languages are more complicated than tagged languages. As a result, the preferred embodiment of this invention includes:

1. Consolidating duplicated logic blocks with a single reference. Peiffer's patent does not include any changes to logic blocks;
2. Shortening recurring identifiers that are found in the document. Identifiers include variable and method names, which are not a part of tagged languages and not mentioned in Peiffer's patent; and
3. Removing unused logic blocks -- that is, a function written in a scripting language but not required to render the web page. Again, logic blocks and functions are not included in Peiffer's method.

None of these ideas are mentioned in Peiffer's patent.

Independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 describe important features of the invention that are not shown in or suggested by Peiffer, et al. In particular, each of these claims describes the feature that the requested web content file stores information in a scripted language, and that the size of the file is reduced by removing pre-identified subject matter in that scripted language.

The other references of record have been reviewed, and these other references, whether considered individually or in combination, also do not disclose or suggest these features described in Claims 1, 6 and 11.

For instance, Lemay, et al. discusses JavaScript functions, but Lemay, et al does not disclose or suggest compressing a scripted language file in response to receiving a request for that file from a web browser.

Ross describes procedures for condensing computer code. This reference works with byte code, while the present invention works with source code. Byte code is the highest level of abstraction, while source code is the human readable code. In addition, the source code, when modified by the present invention, does not require re-compiling, while the modified byte code of Ross does need to be recompiled. Ross and the present invention thus address very different situations and provide solutions for different specific problems.

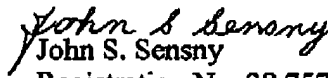
Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 6 and 11 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, Claims 1, 6 and 11 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-5, 16 and 17 are dependent from Claim 1 and are allowable therewith. Likewise, Claims 7-10 are dependent from Claim 6 and are allowable therewith; and Claims 12-15 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 11.

The changes to the claims requested herein only elaborate on features already described in the claims. More specifically, the claims already describe a web content file, and this Amendment only adds a description of certain features of that file. Moreover, the last Office Action was the first time that the Examiner cited Peiffer, et al, and it is submitted that Applicants should have an opportunity to respond to the use of this new reference. Accordingly, it is

believed that entry of this Amendment is appropriate, and such entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the above-discussion, the Examiner is asked to enter this Amendment, to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 and 112, and to allow these claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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